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Approved For Release 2004/09/24 : CIA-RDP81M00980R003200010068-2

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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

Office of Legislative Counsel  
Washington, D. C. 20505

Telephone:

2 February 1978

**TO:** Mr. Richard Giza  
Permanent Select Committee on  
Intelligence  
House of Representatives  
H-405, The Capitol

Dear Dick:

Attached please find information  
on the CONIF system, dated 1 February  
1978.

Attachment



FORM 1533 OBSOLETE  
6-68 PREVIOUS  
EDITIONS

(40)

OLC RECORD COPY

H/PSCL

Journal of 2 Feb 78

#2

OLC-78-0530

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

# OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1			
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3			
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6			

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

## Remarks:

Attached is the information on the CONIF  
system which should be provided to Mr. Giza,  
HPSCI.

*m —*  
*please prepare brief*  
*note to Dick Giza and see*  
*how we can get this to him*

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
O/Compt/Operations Group 4E24	1 Feb 78

CONIF

1 FEBRUARY 1978

ROOTS:

CONIF, an acronym for Contract Information, is an automated system for storage and retrieval of information on CIA contracts. In about 1965 management realized that there were significant benefits to be derived through efficient storage and retrieval of contract information. In 1966 a study of CIA procurement practices and organization was performed by [ ] and [ ]. Among other recommendations, the firm suggested that CIA decentralize its R&D procurement and, at the same time, establish an automated contract information system which would facilitate management overview of the decentralized system.

OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the CONIF system have expanded as the system has evolved. The original system, conceived as a tool for management overview, has also gained progressively in its value to the contracting teams. It currently is being interfaced with Office of Finance systems to expedite the payment of vendor invoices and also support contract audit operations.

EVOLUTION:

CONIF-1 - This system was developed using the TSAR software. It produced 18 standard reports and had limited on-line query capability, but had few edit and validation capabilities. (1966)

CONIF-II - This system was a pilot system using the newly-acquired GIM-I software. This system had improved reports, extensive on-line query capabilities, a batch update capability, and complex file relationships (most of which exist today). This system did not satisfy all of Office of Logistics' (OL) original requirements. Customer experience surfaced various deficiencies in the system. (1973)

CONIF-IIA - This was an interim system to utilize enhanced GIM-II software and provide OL with GIM-II enhancements while avoiding a total redesign of CONIF. Batch updating continued with this system. (1974-1975)

CONIF-III - This system used GIM-II software and satisfies remaining OL CONIF requirements. It resolves known deficiencies and provides an on-line update capability. Office of Finance requirements for invoice payment and contractor auditing will be satisfied. (1977)

#### CAPABILITIES:

All capabilities for on-line query inherent to the GIM-II user language (record selection, list, total, count, extract, etc.)

On-line update capability through menu formats.

Update security applicable to the team responsible for the contract action.

Standard reports and the capability to produce ad hoc reports through use of Basic Automatic Report Formatter (BARF).

Capability to move settled contract actions to an off-line data base.

#### APPLICATIONS:

Oversight: The continuing investigation of CIA and increased oversight by the Rockefeller Commission, the Senate Select Committee, and the House Select Committee have, since late 1974, caused a significant increase in requirements for contract information.

Freedom of Information (FOIA): Changes in Federal law which made CIA subject to the FOIA have resulted in hundreds of requests for information on CIA contracts.

Socioeconomic: Procurement law includes requirements for storage and retrieval of information in such areas as small business and contracts with minority business firms.

Performance Measurement: There is a continuing requirement for information on our top ten contractors, the level and type of contract activity, overrun information, and the amount of sole source versus competitive procurement.

Special Congressional: Value of contracts in a particular constituent area, value of contracts with a particular contractor, percentage of classified versus unclassified contracts.

UNIQUE:

The entire CIA procurement system is structured in such a way that, as required by our Act, sources and methods are protected. This involves classification in many situations of CIA association with a particular contractor. This classification may be necessary to protect the fact that the Agency is delving into a particular technical field or to eliminate potential traceability of an item which may ultimately be shipped to and used in an overseas activity.

SUMMARY:

The accuracy and utility of CONIF have progressively increased as has management reliance on the system. Demands for information are so great in 1978 that managing a procurement activity, without support of an automated data system, is not feasible. Unique security requirements built into the Agency system may negate interchangeability between our system and other Federal procurement data systems.